

21 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Alleged Chiseling on Painting Contract

REFERENCE: 14 April 1967 Memorandum for the Record

1. Yesterday Messrs. Ernest C. Baynard, Richard Berman, and Frank Bosellino, of the House Government Activities Subcommittee staff, observed the taking of paint chips from the walls of all seven floors and the basement of the Agency Headquarters building. The chips were taken by Mr. Leonard Lewis, of GSA. Mr. Lewis also initially used a device known as a "paint tester" but gave up on this procedure when the results proved inconclusive. The walls from which the chips were taken were randomly selected. While both [redacted] of Logistics, and I STAT accompanied the group, this sampling was actually carried out under the jurisdiction of GSA through the building manager, Van Weaver, and his paint foreman, Fred Bayne. Mr. Bayne gave information on whether the walls randomly selected had been repainted since 1965.

2. Mr. Lewis' presence had been arranged with GSA by the Subcommittee staff. Mr. Lewis was late in arriving at the building. Consequently, while in the office of Mr. Weaver, Mr. Baynard asked a series of questions to engage Mr. Weaver in an exchange of opinion on the relative merits of contracting out routine maintenance painting as opposed to possessing an in-house capability. In connection with these inquiries Mr. Weaver summoned his paint foreman, Mr. Bayne.

3. Mr. Bayne engaged in an exchange of views with Baynard, after establishing who Baynard was and the reason for his inquiries. (Neither [redacted] nor myself injected ourselves into this exchange between the Subcommittee staff and GSA as represented by Mr. Weaver.) The two most significant developments in this "informal chat" were statements by Mr. Bayne that:

- a. GSA had, within the month, been out to the Headquarters building and had taken a number of paint chips. Mr. Bayne produced a pencil listing which was a record of the locations of where the paint chips had been taken. The listing covered several pages of a stenographers notebook.

b. While he could not point out a specific wall, he believed that there were certain areas where only one coat of paint had been applied. Mr. Bayne carefully hedged this comment in the context that "this is just the way painters and painter contractors work and that the 1965 painting of the Agency building was an exceptionally fine job."

4. Baynard received the news that GSA had been out taking paint chips with astonishment and had Mr. Berman of his staff check with their GSA contact man while we were in Weaver's office. Mr. Berman then reported to Baynard that the results were mixed. That about 50 percent of the chips showed two coats of paint and the remaining 50 percent showed more than two coats, or one coat. Later [redacted] told me he was not aware of this activity by GSA.

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5. Baynard thanked us for our cooperation and said that before he took any action involving the Agency Headquarters building he would first contact us. Mr. Baynard said that our building was one of the neatest and most attractive Federal buildings he had visited, that it was exceptionally clean, and that he generally was impressed with all aspects of his visit.

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1 - OGC

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